

C.E.F. FY 1979 SALVAGE  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT AND APPRAISAL

C.E.F. FY 1979 SALVAGE

Plumas National Forest  
La Porte Ranger District  
( Experimental Forest )

Prepared By Stephen H. Hutchinson Date 4-15-79  
Reviewed By Dorian E. Hume Date 4-17-79  
Approved By: Rg JTH Date 4-20-79

Based on the enclosed information this analysis indicates that the proposal is not a major action significantly affecting the quality of the environment and an environmental statement will not be prepared.

I. SUMMARY

This project is an action to harvest an estimated 555 MBF of insect infested timber located within the Challenge Experimental Forest, caused from a two year drought and a buildup of the insect population.

The sale will encompass 4,000 acres located within T.19N., R.7E., MDM, within portions of sections 17,18,19,20,28,29,30,31,32,33 and 34.

The project area is planned for tractor yarding with some endlining up to 100 feet.

The major private land owners within the project area are Soper-Wheeler Company and C.H.Y. Company.

A portion of the Experimental Forest surrounds the town of Challenge, California. Numerous small parcels of private ownership are located adjacent to Challenge. (See attached map)

Because of the scattered dead tree locations no major impact from this project is anticipated.

## II. INTRODUCTION

This assessment will examine the effects of implementing a salvage sale within the experimental forest versus the no harvest option. The sale is planned for tractor yarding. Other logging systems will not be considered because of the mild slopes (less than 35%) and the number of existing skid trails. Some small portions of the project area have steep slopes (in excess of 35%), but no significant amount of insect infested timber is present.

## III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

### 1. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Dry Creek, located within the proposed project area has a resident trout population. No insect infested timber is located adjacent to the creek, therefore, no adverse impacts to the water quality will take place.

Because of the scattered location of insect infested timber this project will not pose any significant effect on the wildlife habitat.

### 2. SOILS

There are seven major soil types within the project area. (See attached soils map)

1. Challenge, clay loam
2. Dobbins, clay loam
3. Dubakella, undifferentiated group, gravelly loam
4. Holland, sandy clay loam
5. Josephine, loam
6. Mariposa, loam
7. Sites, gravelly loam

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL

The majority of timber to be harvested will be removed by using existing landings and skid trails. Three areas are to be impacted by landing construction. Landings had archaeological reconnaissance performed. (Douglas H. Guthormsen, Certificate No. 112) No evidence of archaeological sites were identified. Any further impacted areas will have archaeological reconnaissance performed. This sale meets the requirements set forth in the American Antiquities Act of 1906.

4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

This project will harvest an estimated 555 MBF of a utilizable resource, and will add additional revenue to the government. (local and Federal)

5. MANAGEMENT DELINIATION AREAS (Existing stands)

After an on the ground review of the impacted areas (See attached map) the following was assessed. Areas , , , , , will be harvested and will pose no significant impacts to the existing stands on stand objectives for the experimental forest. Three areas which contain dead timber were excluded from harvest because of either excessive slopes or stand management experimental objectives. The parcels excluded from harvest are of a minimal volume.

6. AIR QUALITY

Temporary loss of air quality will take place from internal combustion engines and slash pile burning.

7. TIMBER STANDS

Timber stands generally are thrifty 110-year-old young growth. Though the stands are fully stocked, the conifer-hardwood mix varies considerably and conifer volumes range from 42 MBF to 15 MBF per acre. In Compartment 129B conifer forest type is ponderosa pine and conifer volumes per acre average 42 MBF; in Compartment 106 type is mixed conifer and volumes average 31 MBF; in Compartment 110 type is ponderosa pine - - Douglas-fir and volumes average 15 MBF; and in Compartment 57 type is ponderosa pine and volumes average 15 MBF. There is no old growth of any species in Compartments 129B and 110. There is about 15 MBF net volume in highly defective Douglas-fir and white fir old growth in Compartment 106, and about 25 MBF of similar Douglas-fir and white fir old growth in Compartment 57. Ponderosa pine in the upper part of Compartment 110 is heavily infested with dwarf mistletoe; eradication of dwarfmistletoe from this compartment will be a major objective of the sale. About 70 percent of the total sale volume is in young-growth trees 32 inches d.b.h. and smaller.

8. LAND STATUS

The area of the Experimental Forest was withdrawn for research purposes in the early 1940's; other than a few special uses for domestic water and telephone and power line easements, mostly pre-existing withdrawal, there are no other approved uses on the Experimental Forest. The east edge of Compartment 106 coincides with the boundary of a power line easement, and the draw which is the northeast boundary of Compartment 57 contains a spring development and waterline under Special Use Permit. The planned filter strip in Compartment 57 will adequately protect the spring development and waterline. No salvage exists adjacent to this special use permit.

9. TRANSPORTATION

All of the transportation system roads necessary to log the sale are in place. Average haul distance to Oroville, the location of the nearest mill, is about 32 miles over Forest Service and Yuba and Butte County roads. Maintenance performance or deposits will be required for a total of about 5 miles of Yuba County Roads 106 and 107 and Forest Service Roads 19N04, 19N10, 19N11, 19N16 and 19N22.

IV. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Antiquities Act of 1906
2. Challenge Experimental Forest Management Objectives
3. Loss of timber resource
4. Expedient Sales Offering
5. Long term effects to the environment
6. Economic Benefits

V. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

1. No harvest
2. Harvest using tractor yarding method

VII. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

|                           | Alternative I            | Alternative II                                                     |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Skid Road Construction | None                     | .5 miles                                                           |
| 2. Soils                  | None                     | Temporary Surface<br>soil disturbance                              |
| 3. Archaeological         | No impact                | No impact                                                          |
| 4. Air Quality            | No impact                | Temporary Degrad-<br>ation                                         |
| 5. Economic Benefits      | None (Creates<br>a loss) | Possible + \$16,650.*                                              |
| 6. Range                  | No impact                | No impact                                                          |
| 7. Wildlife               | No impact                | No impact                                                          |
| 8. Socio-Economic         | No impact                | Additional financial<br>benefit to local and<br>Federal Government |

\* Estimate  $\$30.00/\text{MBF} \times 555 \text{ MBF} = \$16,650.00$

VII. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Alternative I will maintain the environment in its natural character, but will cause loss of a utilizable resource. Alternative II will benefit local and Federal Governments and will help maintain jobs. Alternative II will require three permanent landings and .5 miles of temporary skid roads. Short term surface disturbance will take place while logging is in progress. There will be an increased amount of fuels on the forest floor for Alternative II, whereas Alternative I will allow fuels to be displaced on the forest floor over a longer period of time.
2. Alternative II will not impinge on any of the permitted special uses on the Experimental Forest and will help accomplish timber management research and demonstration objectives.

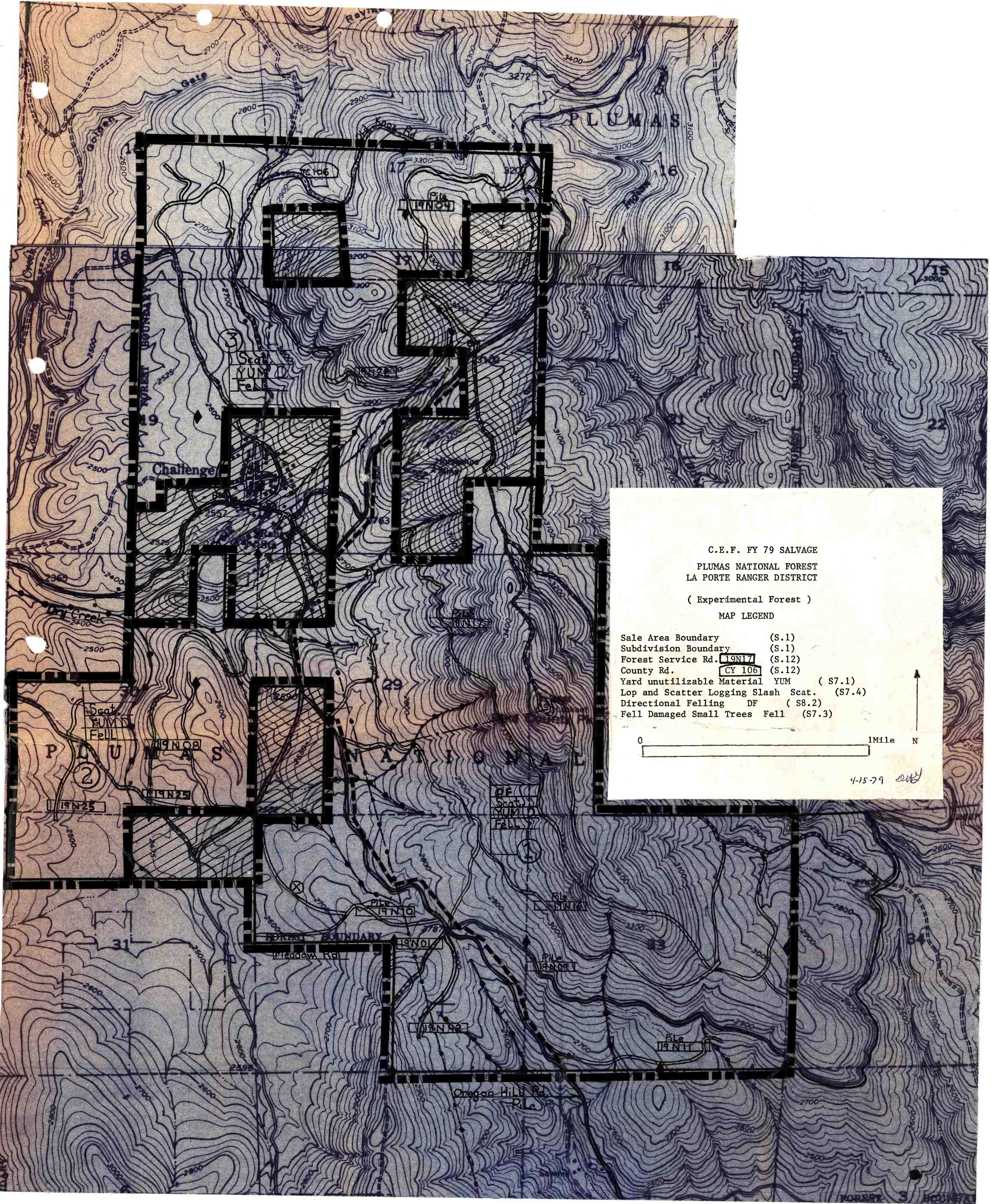
VIII. IDENTIFICATION OF FOREST SERVICE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

I recommend Alternative II for the following reasons:

1. We will utilize a resource which would otherwise be lost.  
(Estimated value \$16,650.00)
2. Meets the objectives of the experimental forest.
3. Will benefit local and Federal Governments.

IX. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, CONSTRAINTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Cross drain all skid trails.
2. Directional felling adjacent to special management units.



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PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST  
LA PORTE RANGER DISTRICT

( Experimental Forest )

MAP LEGEND

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Sale Area Boundary                  | (S.1)         |
| Subdivision Boundary                | (S.1)         |
| Forest Service Rd.                  | 19N17 (S.12)  |
| County Rd.                          | CY 106 (S.12) |
| Yard unutilizable Material YUM      | (S7.1)        |
| Lop and Scatter Logging Slash Scat. | (S7.4)        |
| Directional Felling DF              | (S8.2)        |
| Fell Damaged Small Trees Fell       | (S7.3)        |

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